

Perkins School of Theology
Sending Forth Service
May 5, 2022, 11:30 a.m.

Processional: "Solemn Procession" (from *Ceremonial Music*)
Calvin Hampton (1938-1984)

The procession will include the following, listed in order of their appearance: (1) Student lector Rhonda Chambers and Benjamin Chimwenga Simba, to be seated on the front row left, (pulpit) side. (2) Faculty members and staff not involved in leading the service, to be seated on the right (font) side, beginning in the second row. (3) Faculty members and staff involved in the leadership of the service, to be seated in the first row of the right (font) side of the aisle, with seats reserved on the center aisle for Roy Heller, row one, and Mark Stamm, row two (4) Dean Hill and Abraham Smith to be seated in the front row of the left (pulpit) side.

*Hymn 101, *UMH*: "God Whose Love is Reigning O'er Us"

*Greeting

Alleluia! Jesus Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred dwell together in
unity!

Amen! Thanks be to God.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, let us greet one another with signs
of love and reconciliation. The peace of God be with you.

And also with you.

*The Peace

*Opening Prayer

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

God of all power,

You called from death our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep.

Send us as shepherds to rescue the lost,

To heal the injured,

and to feed one another

with knowledge and understanding;

through the same Jesus Christ our Savior,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

One God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Reprinted by permission from *Book of Common Worship*, ©1993 Westminster/John Knox Press,
altered, p. 328)

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Psalm 34:1-8
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.
Thanks be to God

*Gospel: Mark 10: 46-52
The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: “Standing Still to Gain a Sense of Direction”

Anthem, The Seminary Singers:

“Creation” (*The Continental Harmony*, 1794)

*When I with pleasing Wonder stand,
And all my Frame survey,
Lord, 'tis thy Work, I own;
thy Hand Thus built my humble Clay.
Our Life contains a thousand Springs,
And dies, if one be gone:
Strange! that a Harp, of thousand Strings,
Should keep in Tune so long.*

Prayers of the People:

In peace, let us offer our prayers to God.

Let us pray for the church, that we all may be one. Call, form, and send leaders to proclaim the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Response:

Kyrie (Mass for Three Voices) William Byrd (d. 1623)

Let us pray for those who are retiring ... (R)

Let us pray for those who are graduating ... (R)

Let us pray for those who are leaving to begin internships and research leaves ... (R)

Let us pray for all those who are preparing to begin their studies at Perkins, both in Dallas and in the Houston-Galveston Extension ... (R)

Let us pray for those who are moving through unwelcome and difficult changes: for victims of floods, earthquakes, and natural disasters ... for those who have lost

their jobs and their homes ... for refugees and victims of war ... for the sick and the dying, and all who mourn ... (R)

Let us pray for the forgiveness of our sins and offenses.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and forever. *Amen.* (BCP, 1979, p. 395)

*Great Thanksgiving, "Musical Setting A" *UMH*, pp. 17-18

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away and our love failed, your love remained
steadfast.

You called Abram and Sarai to set out for a promised place,
and they went, not knowing exactly where they were going.
You heard Hagar's cry in the wilderness,
led her and Ishmael to the well,
and made of him a great nation.

You called Moses by name, and commanded him to tell Pharaoh,
"Let my people go."

When you led Israel to safety through the Red Sea, Miriam
danced and sang.

And so,
with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

*(sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, ate with sinners,
and called his followers to be the light of the world.

Jesus called the seventy, and sent them as laborers into the harvest.

He called John, the beloved, and Peter, who denied him,
and Mary Magdalene, who wept and did not recognize him.

Nevertheless, Jesus spoke and Mary heard his voice,
and she testified, "I have seen the Lord."

He called all of us to hear his voice and follow him.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

And so,
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(sung) Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever. *Amen.*

*The Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

*Giving the Bread and Cup

Communion bread will be served from broken loaves, with the server tearing a small portion and placing it in your cupped hand. Gluten free wafers will be available at a station at the middle of the chancel.

The blood of Christ will be offered via small cups of grape juice held on trays.

Please place empty cups in the basket provided.

Dismissal Rite

Friends, today we pray for those who are leaving Perkins School of Theology or moving into new phases of ministry and service.

Those persons are invited to come to the chancel area.

In the name of this community, I commend you to God who has called you, and pledge to you our continuing prayers and support. May the Holy Spirit strengthen you that you may do God's will in the service of Jesus Christ.

(Adapted from *The United Methodist Book of Worship* ©1992. Used by permission)

Persons will move, in turn, to one of the four stations. Each, in turn, will receive the laying on of hands in silence followed by this spoken blessing:

Go in peace, to love and serve God.

Upon receiving this dismissal, persons will return to their seats. When all have received this dismissal, the liturgist will address the entire congregation, raising his hands and saying the following:

You, also, go in peace to love and serve God.

*Hymn 2238, *TFWS*: “In the Midst of New Dimensions”

In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?

Refrain:

God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care?
Refrain.

As we stand a world divided
by our own self-seeking schemes,
grant that we your global village,
might envision wider dreams.
Refrain

We are man and we are woman,
all persuasions, old and young,
each a gift in your creation,
each a love song to be sung.
Refrain

Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit
resurrect the church again.
Refrain

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*Please stand, in body or in spirit.

We welcome all in our live stream audience who join us for today's service. An extension of this Sending Forth service will be held at 1 pm Central time, to provide opportunity for remote participants to receive the blessing prayers. All are invited to join us at the following link:

<https://smu.zoom.us/j/91263460801?pwd=SWswQIV3TINZTktmVVZRejhSUVBIZz09>

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Our preacher for today's service is Dr. Abraham Smith, Professor of New Testament.

Dr. Roy L. Heller, Professor of Old Testament, serves as Faculty Marshal

Dr. Craig C. Hill, Dean and Professor of New Testament, will preside at Holy Communion.

Dr. Mark W. Stamm, Professor of Christian Worship and Chapel elder, serves as liturgist.

Our organist/pianist is Dr. Christopher S. Anderson, Associate Professor of Sacred Music.

The following Perkins students serve as our lectors: Rhonda Chambers and Benjamin Chimwenga Simba.

The following faculty and staff members are also assisting in the leadership of today's service:

Tracy Anne Allred, Assistant Dean of Student Life
and Director of Community Engagement.

Herbert Coleman, Director of Retention and Student Success,
and Diversity Officer

Dr. Tamara Lewis, Director, Black Africana Church Studies Program.

Dr Alyce McKenzie, LeVan Professor of Preaching and Worship and
Director of the Center for Preaching Excellence.

Dr. Charles Aaron, Director of the Intern Program.

Mykayla Turner and Fernando Berwig Silva have served as our chapel assistants during the 2021-22 Academic Year.

The chapel elder takes this opportunity to thank all students, faculty, and staff who helped to plan and lead worship this year.

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The text for the Great Thanksgiving, prepared for this occasion by Mark W. Stamm, is an expansion of that found in *The United Methodist Hymnal*, pages 12-13. It continues to evolve over the years and through various conversations.